

Message Text

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ACTION SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4592

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13938

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT

REFS: NEW DELHI 13797 AND 13708

SUMMARY: THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL APOLOGIZED FOR
DELAY IN GETTING THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE TO US AND RE-
QUESTED INFORMATION PARTICULARLY ABOUT COMPOSITION
OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY AND WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE
FROM US SIDE IN FORMAL DISCUSSIONS. REQUEST REPLY AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. INFORMATION ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS AND OFFICES
AVAILABLE FOR THE SECRETARY AND PARTY ARE BEING
TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, S.J.S. CHHATWAL, APOLOGIZED
OCTOBER 17 FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO MEET WITH DCM EARLIER
TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.
HE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE VISITS OF THE SHAH OF IRAN
AND THE PRESIDENT OF GABON, AND THE APPOINTMENT
OF BOTH A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER,
THE GOI HAD ONLY GOTTEN A PROPOSED SCHEDULE
(NEW DELHI 13797) TO US ON TUESDAY.

2. CHHATWAL REQUESTED URGENTLY FOR GOI PLANNING
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PURPOSES INFORMATION ON:

- A. THE COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY.
- B. WHETHER THE SECRETARY WILL ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S INVITATION TO STAY AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE (RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN) AND, IF SO, WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PARTY WILL STAY WITH HIM THERE. THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR SEVERAL. (INFO ABOUT SPACE AVAILABLE AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN BY SEPTTEL.)
- C. WHO WILL PARTICIPATE FROM OUR SIDE IN THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. (IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THE GOI DESIRED, CHHATWAL DEMURRED, SAYING IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHOM THE SECRETARY BROUGHT WITH HIM. IF HE BROUGHT AN ENERGY EXPERT, THE GOI WOULD MATCH HIM WITH ITS OWN ENERGY EXPERT, FOR EXAMPLE.)

3. HE ALSO NOTED THAT INDIAN PLANNING WOULD BE GREATLY HELPED BY HAVING THE SECRETARY'S REACTION TO:

- A. THE PROPOSAL THAT THE SECRETARY DELIVER A SPEECH.
- B. THE PROPOSAL THAT THE SECRETARY BE INTERVIEWED BY TV BY EITHER ONE OR A PANEL OF JOURNALISTS. (CHHATWAL HIMSELF SUGGESTED THAT THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE "RADIO STATEMENT", WHICH WAS CONTAINED IN THE LAST SCHEDULE GIVEN US BY THE GOI (NEW DELHI 13797) MIGHT BE REDUNDANT IN VIEW OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

4. CHHATWAL STRESSED THAT GOI WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO MEET ALL NEEDS OF THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER. HE INQUIRED IF THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER HAD SPECIAL DIETARY LIKES AND DISLIKES, OR DESIRED ANY PARTICULAR WINES OR OTHER LIQUORS. SHOULD GOI SEEK TO FIND OR AVOID CERTAIN FLOWERS?

5. IN EXPLAINING DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM, CHHATWAL SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING OF AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT, ON A PLATFORM BEFORE ASSEMBLED

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DIGNITARIES. THE PRESS WOULD BE PRESENT BUT IN A SLIGHTLY SEPARATE AREA AND WOULD NOT ASK QUESTIONS. HE ASKED FOR THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON THIS ARRANGEMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE GOI HAS MOVED INTO HIGH GEAR ON THE VISIT, AND WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER CHHATWAL'S QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NEXT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 AND 25 ARE BOTH GOI HOLIDAYS, AS

IS OCTOBER 18, WHICH CONSIDERABLY REDUCES THE TIME
AVAILABLE TO US TO TIE EVERYTHING UP.
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